

EGNOS: a tool for Norsk Luftambulanse AS in their commitment to improve the entire Norwegian air ambulance service

January 2020



Credits: Norsk Luftambulanse AS

[Norsk Luftambulanse AS \(NLA\)](#) is a rotorcraft operator specialized in HEMS (Helicopter Emergency Medical Services) and air ambulance operations.

During the last years, the Norsk Luftambulanse Foundation has in collaboration with Norsk Luftambulanse AS (NLA) and the Norwegian authorities worked on the development of Point in Space (PinS) approaches.

PinS approach procedures are a type of helicopters-only operations that include both an instrument and a visual segment: the instrument segment ends at the Missed Approach Point (MAPt), the PinS, and from there the flight continues with a visual segment. PinS approaches benefit from the natural superior maneuverability of helicopters to implement IFR operations at locations that otherwise would always remain served by VFR approaches.

When visibility or other meteorological conditions are poor, PinS approaches become the best tool for NLA to ensure accessibility to their bases. When EGNOS comes into play, it brings further benefits such as vertical guidance and lower minima.

In August 2019, the first operator-specific EGNOS Working Agreement (EWA) was signed between NLA and ESSP, the EGNOS Service Provider, as a key step for the implementation of EGNOS-based approach procedures to hospitals in Norway.

The immediate effect of this EWA signature is that 24 PinS procedures in Norway were upgraded from LNAV to LPV, from 2D to 3D approaches, becoming a cost efficient navigation solution for the benefit of patients in need of helicopter transport by NLA using satellite based navigation.